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2615P106USCON VH/jm:

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Fastening Assembly,

the specification of which (check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on 18.01.01 as Application Serial No. 09/764,936
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the content of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Priority Claim		
X	Yes	No
198 32 513.4	Germany	July 20, 1998
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States Provisional application(s) listed below::

PRIOR PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

(application serial number)

(Month / Day / Year filed)

(application serial number)

(Month / Day / Year filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status - patented, pending, abandoned

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint Christopher M. Brock, Reg. No. 27313, and each principal, attorney of counsel, associate, and employee of Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., who is a registered Patent Attorney, my attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. I request the Patent and Trademark Office to direct all correspondence and telephone calls relative to this application to Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., P.O.Box 828, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303, telephone (810) 641-1600.

Full Name of Sole or First Inventor:

Roland Eberlein

Inventor's signature:

Roland Eberlein

Date:

11.01.01

Residence:

Schulweg 12, Niederwürschnitz, Germany

Citizenship:

German

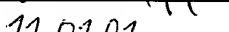
Post Office Address:

Same as above

Full Name of Sole or First Inventor:

Lothar Wilberg

Inventor's signature:



Date:

11.01.01

Residence:

Bergweg 15, Bühlertann, Germany

Citizenship:

German

Post Office Address:

Same as above

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Inventor(s): Roland Eberlein, Lothar Wilberg

Serial No.: 09/764,936

Filed: January 18, 2001

For: FASTENING ASSEMBLY

Patent No.:

Issued:

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

- the owner of the small business concern identified below:
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

Name Of Concern: IMPAG GmbH Medizintechnik

Address Of Concern: Vogtsbauernhof 2

D-78730 Lauterbach-Sulzbach

Germany

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.1301-1305, and referenced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that exclusive rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in

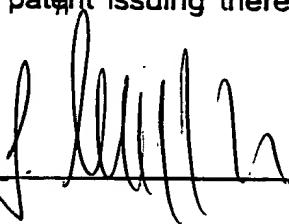
- the specification filed herewith.
 the application whose serial number is set forth above.
 the patent set forth above.

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Signed:



Date: 18.01.01

Name Of Person Signing: Lothar Wilberg

Title Of Person If Other Than Owner: GENERALBEVOLLMÄCHTIGTER